

Also used for controlled access freeways, cross section "M" may be recommended for expressway/boulevard going through major urban areas or for routes projected to carry very high volumes of traffic.

Bicycle Cross Sections

Cross sections B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-5 are typical bicycle cross sections. Contact the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation for more information regarding these cross sections.

B-1: Four Lanes Divided with Wide Outside Lanes

B-2: Five Lanes with Wide Outside Lanes

A widened outside lane is an effective way to accommodate bicyclists riding in the same lane with motor vehicles. With a wide outside lane, motorists do not have to change lanes to pass a bicyclist. The additional width in the outside lane also improves sight distance and provides more room for vehicles to turn onto the roadway. Therefore, on roadways with bicycle traffic, widening the outside lane can improve the capacity of that roadway. Also, by widening the outside lane by a few extra feet both motorists and bicyclists have more space in which to maneuver. This facility type is generally considered for use in urban, suburban, and occasionally rural conditions on roadways where there is a curb and gutter. Wide outside lanes can be applied to several different roadway cross sections.

B-3: Bicycle Lanes on Collector Streets

Bicycle lanes may be considered when it is desirable to delineate road space for preferential use by cyclists. Streets striped with bicycle lanes should be part of a connected bikeway system rather than being an isolated feature. Bicycle lanes function most effectively in mid-block situations by separating bicyclists from overtaking motor vehicles. Integrating bicyclists into complicated intersection traffic patterns can sometimes be problematic. Strip development areas, or roadways with a high number of commercial driveways, tend to be less suitable for bicycle lanes due to frequent and unpredictable motorist turning movements across the path of straight-through cyclists. Striped bike lanes can be effective as a safety treatment, especially for less-experienced bicyclists. Two-lane residential/collector streets with lower traffic volume, low-posted speed limit, adequate roadway width for both bike lanes and motor vehicle travel lanes, and an absence of complicated intersections. A median-divided multi-lane roadway with lower traffic volumes and a low volume of right and left turning traffic would be a more appropriate location for bicycle lanes than a high traffic volume undivided multi-lane roadway with a continuous center turn lane. Most bicyclists will choose a route that combines direct access with lower traffic volumes. An origin and destination of less than 4 miles is desirable to generate usage on a facility.

B-4: Wide Paved Shoulders

On urban streets with curb and gutter, wide outside lanes and bicycle lanes are usually the preferred facilities. Shoulders for bicycle use are not typically provided on roadways with curb and gutter. On rural roadways where bicycle travel is common, such as roads in coastal resort areas, wide paved shoulders are highly desirable. On secondary roadways without